

VZCZCXRO2102
RR RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH
DE RUEHBK #2534/01 1240935
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 040935Z MAY 07 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6679
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 7092
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 4487
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3071
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 9214
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHFJSCC/COMMARFORPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK 002534

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

PACOM FOR FPA HUSO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/02/2017

TAGS: [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [MASS](#) [PTER](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: U.S. - JAPAN - AUSTRALIA CT DIALOGUE: MILITARY
DISCUSSIONS

REF: BANGKOK 1349

BANGKOK 00002534 001.2 OF 002

Classified By: Political Counselor Susan M. Sutton. Reason 1.4 (a and d)

11. (C) Summary. As part of our local trilateral CT dialogue (reftel), representatives from the U.S., Japanese and Australian Missions in Bangkok agreed to explore holding a joint training event at either the Bangkok airport or seaport to enhance Thai capabilities. Japan appears willing to expand its participation in civil affairs training under the aegis of the Cobra Gold military exercise but will need to be able to tell the Diet that the projects are designed for Japanese peacekeeper engineers and medics to train Thai peacekeepers. Japanese and Australian officials are willing to share the names of Thai security forces they train with the Embassy to avoid duplication of effort. End Summary.

TRILATERAL COOPERATION

12. (C) On May 2, JUSMAGTHAI hosted a meeting among working level military and political officers from the Japanese, Australian and U.S. Embassies to explore possible opportunities for collaboration in enhancing Thai counterterrorism capabilities. The meeting was held as part of the local trilateral CT dialogue with those countries. Defense Attache Squadron Leader Ritchie Cunningham outlined Australia's military training and educational events aimed at the Thai military and made special mention of Australian collaboration with Thai immigration authorities at Bangkok's new international airport. First Secretary Hiromoto Oyama and Defense Attache COL Yukihiro Kusama explained legal restrictions in Japan that limit the types of cooperation the GOJ can offer the Thai. As moderator, the U.S. reviewed possible areas for collaboration.

13. (C) In order to reduce the risk of duplication of effort, representatives from all three missions agreed to share with each other the names of Thai officials they train. JUSMAGTHAI extended offers to assist both the Australian and Japanese military plan force protection measures to protect visiting Australian or Japanese warships or military units. Japanese officials explained that their regulations permit them to construct facilities to enhance host country CT capabilities so long as the managing agency of those

facilities is civilian. Thus, it appears unlikely that Japan could help to fund U.S. initiatives to build a National Training Facility (NTF) to be used by Thai police and military units but administered by the Royal Thai Army.

PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS AND CIVIL AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

¶4. (C) Australia expressed an interest in becoming more involved in our Peace Support Operations training with the Thai military once the U.S. lifts coup sanctions. The Japanese participate in the Peace Keeping computer simulation Command Post Exercise (CPX) which is part of our annual Cobra Gold military exercise in Thailand. This year, for the first time, Japanese Ground Self Defense Force personnel will join U.S., Thai and Singaporean medics in conducting Medical Civil Affairs Projects (MEDCAPS) in Thailand as part of Cobra Gold. The Japanese explained that they would be willing to explore expanding their participation in civil affairs training as part of Cobra Gold or as part of other exercises but noted that in order to win Japanese Diet approval of that participation, the MEDCAPS or Engineering Civil Affairs Projects (ENCAPS) would have to be justified as Japanese experts helping to improve Royal Thai Army MEDCAP and ENCAP capabilities -- not simply as an opportunity to enhance their own skills or build facilities for the Thai. JUSMAGTHAI intends to share this information with Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC), the executive agent for Cobra Gold 2008, in the hopes we can expand Japanese participation in Cobra Gold.

MASS CASUALTY EXERCISES AT THAI AIRPORTS OR SEAPORTS

¶5. (C) Japanese representatives expressed a willingness to work with the U.S., Australia and Thailand to develop a mass-casualty exercise at either Bangkok's new international airport or seaport to enhance Thai capabilities to respond to a WMD incident. The Japanese explained that their experts

BANGKOK 00002534 002.2 OF 002

would have to work with civilian agencies in the Thai government -- not the Thai military -- to implement the exercise. The Japanese suggested that Japanese civilian experts could partner with U.S. and Australian military counterparts to carry out the exercise. JUSMAGTHAI will continue to work with Thai authorities to develop crisis response drills at Thai ports and offered to work with Japan and Australia to determine whether a multi-lateral exercise could be designed -- perhaps with the assistance of the Washington State National Guard.
BOYCE